

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 36

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 16 July 1971

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:



Sergeant *Peter C. Lemon* (then Specialist Four), , United States Army, who distinguished himself on 1 April 1970 while serving as an assistant machine gunner with Company E, 2d Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, during the defense of Fire Support Base Illingworth in Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam. When the base came under heavy enemy attack, Sergeant *Lemon* engaged a numerically superior enemy with machine gun and rifle fire from his defensive position until both weapons malfunctioned. He then used hand grenades to fend off the intensified enemy attack launched in his direction. After eliminating all but one of the enemy soldiers in the immediate vicinity, he pursued and disposed of the remaining soldier in hand-to-hand combat. Despite fragment wounds from an exploding grenade, Sergeant *Lemon* regained his position, carried a more seriously wounded comrade to an aid station, and, as he returned, was wounded a second time by enemy fire. Disregarding his personal injuries, he moved to his position through a hail of small arms and grenade fire. Sergeant *Lemon* immediately realized that the defensive sector was in danger of being overrun by the enemy and unhesitatingly assaulted the enemy soldiers by throwing hand grenades and engaging in hand-to-hand combat. He was wounded yet a third time but his determined efforts successfully drove the enemy from the position. Securing an operable machine gun, Sergeant *Lemon* stood atop an embankment fully exposed to enemy fire and placed effective fire upon the enemy until he collapsed from his multiple wounds and exhaustion. After regaining consciousness at the aid station, he refused medical evacuation until his more seriously wounded comrades had been evacuated. Sergeant *Lemon's* conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army. This award supersedes the Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Sergeant *Lemon* for extraordinary heroism in action on 1 April 1970, as announced in United States Army Vietnam General Orders Number 3789, 1970.



GO 36

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Distribution:

To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12-4 requirements.